(b) Because India does not maintain relations with the South African Government, the decision was not conveyed to it.

Setting up of a Copper Plant in Madhya Pradesh

*320 SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large deposits of copper in Malanjkhand Copper Mines in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Copper Plant there on the pattern of the Plant in Khetri (Rajasthan);

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the estimated cost and location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to set up a copper smelting plant in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d). A feasibility study for optimal exploitation of Malanjkhand copper deposits is under progress which, interalia, also includes the question of setting up of a smelting plant together with related issues like its cost and location.

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas

*321. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas and crude oil produced in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to increase their Production?

THE MINISTER OF PERTROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Approximately 100 million tonnes of crude oil and 48.2 billion cubic metres of gas were produced during the last three financial years.

A number of oil and gas development projects are being implemented to augment the production of crude oil and natural gas.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

*322. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more such Kendras in various States;

(c) if so, their location, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which these Kendras are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Sir, so far ICAR has established 109 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country. State-wise list is given in the enclosed. Statement.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The number and location will depend upon the availability of financial resources and infrastructural facilities.